

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,HU

SUBJECT: SZABO FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ARMITAGE

1. AMBASSADOR SZABO PAID BRIEF FAREWELL COURTESY CALL ON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE APRIL 16. HE SAID HE  
DID NOT WISH TO REPEAT MATTERS RAISED DURING CALL THAT  
MORNING ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN (WHICH ARMITAGE  
ATTENDED). SZABO DID WANT TO ADD THAT HUNGARIANS ARE FRANK  
AND OPEN, AND THAT THEY WISHED TO SAY THAT IMPLEMENTATION  
OF AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH U.S. (CONSULAR, CLAIMS) WAS  
PROCEEDING VERY WELL. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SETTLEMENT  
WITH BONDHOLDERS COUNCIL WILL PROBABLY SOON BE CONCLUDED AS  
WELL. GOH WISHES TO BE DONE WITH "REMNANTS OF THE PAST,"  
AND HE OBSERVED THAT US SEEMS ONE OF THE LAST NATIONS WITH  
WHICH ALL OF SUCH MATTERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ARRANGED.

2. SZABO CONTINUED BY NOTING IMPORTANCE OF OUR CULTURAL  
RELATIONS, AND SAID THAT EVEN IN ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT,  
SUCH EXCHANGES AND EXHIBITS PROCEED "IN A BUSINESSLIKE  
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WAY EVEN THOUGH MORE THAN BUSINESS IS INVOLVED." HE SAID

THAT IN HUNGARY NOT ONLY THE SOCIAL SYSTEM HAS CHANGED, BUT A NEW PEOPLE HAS EMERGED AS WELL. THAT IS WHY EVERY YEAR OUR MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE MUST BE RENEWED. HE LOOKED

FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN A CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORED BETTER RELATIONS, A POINT OF VIEW THAT HE SAID HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AT THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS AS WELL. HE THOUGHT THAT US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS HAD REACHED THE STAGE WHERE THEY NOW WERE "QUITE NORMAL," ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCES STILL EXISTED.

3. IN REPLY, ARMITAGE SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED TO HEAR SZABO'S VIEW THAT AT APPROPRIATE TIME WE MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AGAIN AT EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. HE WAS ALSO GLAD TO HEAR THAT EXCHANGES WERE GOING WELL EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO SZABO'S QUESTION REGARDING THE TRADE BILL, ARMITAGE SAID HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO WHAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN HAD SAID ON THE SUBJECT THAT MORNING. HE COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING ON TIMING, BUT WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS TO SEE WHAT IS POSSIBLE.

4. ARMITAGE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT WE ARE A POWER WITH GLOBAL INTERESTS. AS SUCH, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO VIEW RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY SIMPLY AS A FUNCTION OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE RECALLED THAT SZABO HAD SAID THAT MORNING THAT HUNGARIANS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO DO VIOLENCE TO THEIR ALLIES. IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO ENGAGE IN POLICIES THAT CALL ANYBODY'S SECURITY INTO QUESTION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO HAVE INTERESTS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE, AND IT IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONSIDER ONLY BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE DO NOT ASK THAT EVERYBODY AGREE WITH US. HOWEVER, WE DO ASK THAT OTHER NATIONS STUDY OUR ACTIONS AND POLICIES IN AS OBJECTIVE A LIGHT AS POSSIBLE.

5. SZABO NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, HUNGARIANS HAD JOINED OTHER ICCS NATIONS IN REQUESTING ICCS CHAIRMAN APPROACH "VIET CONG" (SZABO'S CONFIDENTIAL

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WORDS) REGARDING SAFETY OF AMERICANS AT BAN ME THUOT.

6. MEETING ENDED WITH EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES AND REGARDS FROM ARMITAGE TO VARKONYI AND KALLOS. SZABO WILL LEAVE US APRIL 28. HE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT WAS NOT DECIDED, BUT PROBABLY WOULD BE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. KISSINGER

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